



Security Council

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Letter dated 19 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a press release entitled "TPLF regime: ludicrous accusation against Eritrea", issued on 18 January 2012 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea (see annex).

Eritrea rejects the unfounded accusation that associates it with the armed attack by "Ethiopia armed groups against foreign tourists" in the Afar region of Ethiopia. Eritrea has always stood against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and finds the heinous act condemnable. My delegation wishes to express its condolences to the families of the victims.

I would be most grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Araya Desta
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 19 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Press release

TPLF regime: ludicrous accusation against Eritrea

As reported by various news agencies, the Ethiopian government is mendaciously implicating Eritrea for a senseless "armed attack by *Ethiopian armed groups* against foreign tourists" that reportedly occurred in its north-eastern "Afar region" on Monday this week.

This is not surprising as the TPLF regime routinely seeks to blame Eritrea for military acts of home-grown internal opposition movements spawned by its misguided policies.

The prevalence of armed opposition movements in Ethiopia is not, otherwise, a new or recent phenomenon predating, as it does, Eritrea's independence. But the pattern has been exacerbated in the last 20 years due to narrow policies of exclusion and marginalization of Ethiopia and the people of Ethiopia pursued by, and enshrined in, the constitution of the current regime. The TPLF regime has further transformed Ethiopia into a platform of regional destabilization to serve the interests of external forces. Within this mindset, it has been employing any pretext to conduct a smear campaign against Eritrea.

The TPLF authorities have indeed made it a habit to stigmatize Eritrea for a variety of reasons; principal among which is to portray Eritrea in a negative light in order to deflect public attention from their illegal acts of occupation of sovereign Eritrean territories and other acts of regional destabilization. Apparently, they have seized on this tragic event as a *blessing in disguise* to vilify Eritrea.

These are the indelible facts. Unfortunately, the TPLF regime has always found succour in other powers that are responsible for instigating and compounding its hostile campaigns. The apparent tendency of many news agencies to hastily associate Eritrea with this senseless act without any modicum of examination and validation only amplify the extent of the sinister designs woven against Eritrea.